

Twelve & the 12 "Stones"

Review after the study of 5 and the connection with 12.

Mat. 14:17-21

17 "We have here only **five** loaves of bread and **two fish**," they answered.

18 "Bring them here to me," he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the **five loaves** and the **two fish** and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up **twelve** basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

21 The number of those who ate was about **five** thousand men, besides women and children.

Remember grace is being given here by our Lord to those that need redemption. He is feeding them truth out of himself and through the hands of his disciples that will wash and cleanse the crowd. The food represents His teachings which are truth and that lead to changed lives.

Let's attempt to discern the Lord's meaning for twelve. Was it used just in conjunction with the Lord's chosen? Twelve full baskets were left over after the feeding of the 5000.

There still was a lot left over to affect what the Lord desired to do. But what was his intention? What would these twelve loaves provide for those that would eat them later during the next two thousand years of this age of grace?

KJV Gen. 17:19-20

19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

20 And as for **Ishmael**, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; **twelve princes** shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

Interestingly enough this individual doesn't receive the "inheritance" but twelve does seem to be associated here with authority. Is authority occasionally given to those that do not know the Lord to do His will?

Is it associated with rulers or authority or both?

NIV Gen 17:19-20

20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of **twelve rulers**, and I will make him into a great nation.

Please note that whatever he is doing he is willing to give authority to do it to those "not of the promise as well as of the promise." He uses the "good" as well as the "bad". He is God of all whether they acknowledge Him or not.

Gen. 42:12-13 Joseph is speaking to his brothers.

12 "No!" he said to them. "You have come to see where our land is unprotected."
13 But they replied, "Your servants were **twelve brothers**, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more." (*Jacob or rather Israel, is the father of the twelve patriarchs or the twelve brothers*) These individuals and the tribes following them will eventually also have a part in the "work" that the Lord has authorized them to take part in. These individuals and their tribes were not particularly "clean" in the Lord's eyes either. Nevertheless they were used.

Josh. 4:1

4:1 And it came to pass, when all the people were **clean** passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying,
2 Take you **twelve** men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,
3 And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, **twelve stones**, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.
4 Then Joshua called the **twelve men, whom he had prepared** of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man:
5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take you up every man of you a **stone upon his shoulder**, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:
6 That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?
7 Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

Is authority to purge negated due to cleanness? Or judgement curtailed due to cleanness? The Jordan is often seen to "flow against the mouth" of an evil person to stop them. The Jordan often is symbolic of death of self. Here a sign has been left to remind them that "by grace" they have been allowed to take the Land under the Lord's authority and by his might. Taking the Land in the Symbolic sense for a Christian could be walking closer and closer to the Lord or being perfected in His Image. Have we not been called to rule and reign with Him? These twelve prepared men were used to build an object lesson that would last through time so that a people wouldn't forget. Twelve here is utilized to touch a later generation with spiritual truth to preserve.

Numbers 6:22-7:2-3

22 The LORD said to Moses,
23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:
24 "'The LORD bless you and keep you;
25 the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
26 the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."
27 "**So they will put my name on the Israelites**, and I will bless them."

7:1 When Moses finished setting up the tabernacle, he anointed it and consecrated it and all its furnishings. He also anointed and consecrated the altar and all its utensils.
2 Then the leaders of Israel, the heads of families who were the tribal leaders in charge of those who were counted, made offerings.
3 They brought as their gifts before the LORD **six covered** carts and **twelve oxen**--an ox from each leader and a cart from every two. These they presented before the tabernacle.
4 The LORD said to Moses, 5 "Accept these from them, that they may **be used in the work** at the Tent of Meeting. Give them to the Levites as each man's work requires." 6 So Moses took the carts and oxen and gave them to the Levites.

Substitutionary redemption by blood of animals. Early type of cleansing by the blood. Six are covered! Six points to man and his iniquity. Perhaps the covering refers to the Blood that covers each of us. His righteousness covers our sin. An ox does the work. The 12 tribes have been responsible for being used to impart His wisdom in the Old Testament. This portion of the word (the Law or Old Testament) was authorized to do its work. It was authorized by divine decree so that we might know our sin. There was a problem, not only did it judge but it condemned and did kill in the hands of the Jews, a lot of what Satan does. Though ordained by our Lord the work had been subverted and distorted by the enemy. Remember though authorized by God he didn't send His Holy Spirit into each of the Jews but he only placed the Holy Spirit upon a few prophets. These gifts associated with impurity are taken and moved by twelve oxen from leaders. Something impure is perhaps being made acceptable.

1 Kings 10 - Solomon's throne.

19 The throne had **six** steps, and its back had a rounded top. On both sides of the seat were armrests, with a lion standing beside each of them.

20 **Twelve lions** stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like it had ever been made for any other kingdom.

Note the number 12 quite often accompanies two sixes. Six has a filthy connotation to it throughout scripture yet here it is involved with a ruler and the number 12. Some believe Solomon is a type of risen Christ is acting as the Lion of the tribe of Judah reigning during the millennial period. The Lord is in charge of cleansing people and making them able to fulfill his divine purposes. Unclean individuals also accomplish His purposes but they seem to accomplish acts of judgment upon the Lord's people and consequently are then destroyed after they serve the purpose our Lord has for them.

Still divine authority is operating through unclean instruments to achieve His purpose.

Numbers 17:1 The LORD said to Moses,

2 "Speak to the Israelites and get **twelve** staffs from them, one from the leader of each of their ancestral tribes. Write the name of each man on his staff.

3 On the staff of Levi write Aaron's name, for there must be one staff for the head of each ancestral tribe. 4 Place them in the Tent of Meeting in front of the Testimony, where I meet with you. 5 The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will

rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites."

The staff here is a symbol of authority being granted by our Lord. Authority to govern or rule if you will.

Numbers 31:2-8 The LORD said to Moses,

2 "Take **vengeance** on the Midianites for the Israelites. After that, you will be gathered to your people." 3 So Moses said to the people, "Arm some of your men to go to war against the Midianites and to carry out the Lord's vengeance on them.

4 Send into battle a thousand men from each of the tribes of Israel."

5 So **twelve thousand** men armed for battle, a thousand from each tribe, were supplied from the clans of Israel. 6 Moses sent them into battle, a thousand from each tribe, along with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, who took with him articles from the sanctuary and the trumpets for signaling. 7 They fought against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses, and killed every man. 8 Among their victims were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba--the five kings of Midian.

Who ordered it? Who carried it out? What was done and to whom?

Cleansing? Vengeance against sin or uncleanness. God given divine authority to cleanse and or to punish. Perhaps an agent of grace or/an an agent of chastisement depending on who is worked upon? The tree of good and evil carrying our judgement as pronounced by our Lord? Five individuals are named, probably leaders, that are marked with the number of uncleanness or sin. Remember Moses is a type of the Law and the law is good but it calls judgement upon all that sin. Without mercy or grace they will be destroyed.

Josh 8:25-26

25 **Twelve thousand** men and women fell that day--all the people of Ai.

26 For *Joshua* did not draw back the hand that held out his javelin until he had destroyed all who lived in Ai.

Here we see a cleansing of the land of an unclean people by his chosen people. Perhaps this represents a type of a cleansing of a Christian of his unclean habits. The Lord perfecting an image of himself within each believer? Get rid of the bad and produce the good. Self being negated? Also remember what the people of Ai were used for? The Lord had them discipline Israel. Once the discipline was over his agent of discipline was destroyed by the hand of those that were disciplined. They didn't do this on their own but were given divine authority by our Lord.

1 Kings 7

25 The Sea stood on **twelve bulls**, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south and three facing east. The Sea rested on top of them, and their hindquarters were toward the center.

The so called Sea was used by the Priest to wash and bath in. It produced clean

individuals that worked around the temple. Those that come close to our Lord must be clean! Those that he brings close to himself he does see to it that they walk through the fire and that all uncleanness is brought up before them for repentance to take place. Today he washes us with his word. It certainly is not easy to look into the mirror of the word and recognize our sin! But it does produce fruit in the end and an obedient servant into whom He might pour His Spirit.

So then these twelve tribes who chose the tree of good and evil(the law) now carry the great sea or bath. The job of cleansing given by divine authority? Note above there are two sixes! Two sides of the "bath" have 6 bulls holding it up. The Lord has taken a people who have unclean characteristics and is using them to cleanse or purge. Here we have four sides with three on each side. Remember the way the Israelites used to camp? Compare this with the four Cherubim in Ezekial's picture of the Lord riding on His chariot with 6 wings and four faces each? They also surround him on four sides even though they are a bit below him. His sacrifice on the brazen altar (the cross) permitted the grace to flow which cleanses us. The old testament or Law (through the Spirit of Elijah) does show us our sin so that we might repent, turn toward the cross, and be cleansed by the blood of Christ. Without the law we would not know what sin is.

1 Kings 18:30-32

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he **repaired the altar** of the LORD, which was in ruins.

31 Elijah took **twelve stones**, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel."

32 With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

These stones when built into an appropriate structure were to hold a carcass which was acceptable onto the Lord and divinely prepared. The result was the statement by the people "Jehovah is God".

Remember the fire came down and licked everything up! Divine fire can clean or destroy. Christ took our place on the altar as a substitute sin offering. He was acceptable to the father. This cleansed us and provided a way to begin perfecting His image within each of his believers. It also negated the "condemnation" given to us by the Law and allowed grace to do its work of redemption. Please understand that this sacrifice by Elijah is felt to be by the "Bride" at the end of the age. What she exactly will be asked to do to accomplish such a feat is a beautiful subject and we know it will be divinely ordained.

1 Kings 19:19-21

19 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with **twelve yoke** of oxen, and he himself was driving the **twelfth** pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him.

20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-by," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What

have I done to you?" 21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.

Could this be a picture of the end times when the reaper catches up with the plowman? Perhaps maturity will be imparted by feeding meat? Could this be a picture of the time of Joseph (a type of Christ) when the stored up grain is sold to those in need. The transfer of authority from Elijah to Elisha quite possibly occurs at the end of this age and designates the change of purpose of the Holy Spirit from this age to the next age (the millenium). The emphasis is transferred from that of salvation to maturity and unity. The double portion was given later to Elisha. The word seems to indicate this portion or fullness is given after the revelation and testing by the anti-christ. Perhaps it prepares the bride for the altar she must be martyred on or again it might be given to her after she performs this great act. Sowing seed has apparently ended here, the age of catching fish and turning them into sheep is over, the great age of our salvation is over. Something has been finished and something else has started. 12 is still associated with it. We drink milk, then eat bread (grain), and finally we eat meat. This is analogous to becoming first the lamb, and then a ox, and finally a lion for our Lord? The plowing equipment was used to cook the meat. No more sowing of the gospel, but strength is given to complete our Lord's will!

Exodus 28:9-11

9 And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel: 10 **Six** of their names on one stone, and the other **six** names of the rest on the other stone, according to their birth.

11 With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold.

12 "And you shall put the two stones on the shoulders of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. So Aaron shall bear their names before the Lord on his two shoulders as a memorial.

Please notice the position on each shoulder with the head of the high priest right between! The position of the two sixes is important in that they are close to the head, our Lord. This denotes a position of great responsibility, leadership and service. Onyx is black and white one denoting sin and the other purity and so do we all that belong to Christ contain both. Note also they are set in gold. Gold always symbolizes righteousness. The two stones acting together as one (twelve) will achieve by our Lord's authority a righteous purpose. The purpose that the two will achieve, by his authority, is clear in the next scripture.

Deut 27:9-13

11 And Moses charged the people the same day, saying,

12 These shall stand upon mount Gerizim to bless the people, when ye are come over

Jordan; Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Joseph, and Benjamin:
13 And these shall stand upon mount Ebal to curse; Reuben, Gad, and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

Note above that six stood on one mountain and six stood on the other, two sixes but still a total of 12. The Law actually shows us a mirror that we might repent and be cleansed by our Lord's grace. For those that are not called by the father to the son the law curses and there is no redemption possible. The cleansing is a blessing, a restorative act. Both sixes working as one (twelve) are required to achieve the desired result! Most twelve's in scripture seem to be related to this great act of salvation.

.Ester 2:11-12

11 Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.

12 Before a girl's turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete **twelve** months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, **six months with oil of myrrh** and **six with perfumes and cosmetics**.

What beauty treatments must we go through to finally come into His presence? Perhaps the Lord is perfecting someone for himself from Genesis to Revelation? Someone to replace the old impetuous Eve, possibly a type of the Hebrew laity before Christ. All numbers seem to lead into the number twelve and form a part of it. The cleansing process described above is similar to that endured by the Shulammitte in Song of Songs but at the end of the process she was "perfect" in the Lord's eyes and acceptable as an intimate and trusted partner. Later (in the book of Revelation) two sets of 12 come together as twenty four, could this be the joining of the Jewish portion of the bride with the Gentile portion of the bride? The law and grace becoming one? What a combination! This could only be found in Christ. Possibly we are looking at a replacement for the old Guardian Cherub Lucifer. Consider this he had only nine stones and was missing three very important stones that complete the beauty found in the bride of Christ. This will be explained more completely later in this study.

Isa 54:11 Isaiah prophesying the future for Jerusalem - The House of the Lord not built by human hands, his bride.

11 "O afflicted city, lashed by storms and not comforted, I will build you with stones of turquoise, your foundations with sapphires.

12 I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of sparkling jewels, and **all your walls of precious stones**.

13 All your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children's peace. In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you.

This is thought to represent our Lord's plans for Israel who quite often gives up all hope. Their sin will be judged but grace will be given after they repent at the end of this age when the times of the gentiles will be fulfilled. The Lord Jesus will lift the veil from

their eyes and will be their righteousness not their works as in times past. Peace will finally be their portion.

Defensive walls and the doors are often associated with twelve. Consider this:

Jeremiah 31:22

21 "Set up road signs; put up guideposts. Take note of the highway, the road that you take. Return, O Virgin Israel, return to your towns.

22 How long will you wander, O unfaithful daughter? The LORD will create a new thing on earth-- **a woman will surround a man.**"

23 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: 'The LORD bless you, O righteous dwelling, O sacred mountain.'

The old Hebrews used to camp in a double square, one inside of the other with the tent of the meeting in the center. An outer and an inner court were formed. Could the "woman" this Hebrew encampment be a portion of the designated bride of Christ? They and we certainly are associated with twelve. We certainly should protect the integrity of his Word as well as His holiness. We are the dwelling place for our Lord, the new Jerusalem which comes down as one fit for her husband. (Re 21:2) We all, Hebrew and gentile Christians alike will surround Him and will be a loyal protective wife. Consider what is occurring today in many of our main line denominations. From the top in particular the message is of all encompassing grace without repentance! All uncleanness is being welcomed into many denominations, numbers are more important than pleasing our God. Indeed there is a church of apostasy forming and she may well be the greatest enemy of the latest move of our Lord.

Isa 14:11-19 King of Babylon - a Type of Satan the "The old Guardian Cherub" that Christ will replace. The original "morning star." An incomplete imposter of our Lord Jesus who has become the new "morning star."

11 All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you.

12 How you have fallen from heaven, **O morning star**, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." 15 But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. 16 Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, 17 the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?"

18 All the kings of the nations lie in state, each in his own tomb. 19 But you are cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch; you are covered with the slain, with those pierced by the **sword**, those who descend to the stones of the pit. Like a corpse trampled

underfoot,

Now lets take another look at this same individual within another type.

Ezek 28:12-14 Lucifer, in the beginning, and the corruption of his wisdom. Note jewel types and number.

12 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the **king of Tyre** and say to him: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: **ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl.** Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. 14 You were anointed as a **guardian cherub**, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. 16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. 17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

Please note that this original guardian cherub had **nine** stones. These were not sufficient, something was missing. He was ordained by our Lord for a purpose and that was for protecting our Lord and His word. This sounds like the law. The law as it was given to the Hebrews by our Lord was perfect, however within a very short time they corrupted it and used it for their own purposes. It was like the tree of good and evil without the tree of life. So then the Israel of the last age under the Law suffered the same fate as Lucifer. The law was not sufficient by itself to provide a bride or body for our Lord so another had to be brought in to finish the job. But note below another reference to the work that the old Guardian cherub has as the Lord describes him. Please note that in the "word" iron is often said to symbolize justice being done. Let's take another look at nine again.

Judges 4:2-3

2 So **the LORD sold** them into the hands of Jabin, a king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth Haggoyim. 3 Because he had **nine hundred iron** chariots and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the LORD for help.

Please note that the Israelites had sinned and were being chastised by Sisera. The lord allowed Satan to punish Israel with this man. He was empowered to correct a disobedient child. To turn her back to the proper way as a human father would punish his own child to correct his behavior leading to a proper character. The number nine is often associated with the one who is used to correct the Lord's children. Note that ordinarily after an instrument has been used for this purpose it is quite often destroyed. The motive of the "punisher" is not to restore but to destroy. The Lord's motive is to bring his child into the image of Christ.

1 Sam. 17

- 3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.
- 4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet (six cubits?) tall.
- 5 He had a **bronze** helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of **bronze** weighing **five** thousand shekels ;

Nine feet cannot be used as it has been translated into our system of measure and consequently loses its meaning altogether. Many today are enjoying new bibles that have been transliterated but lose all symbolism and consequently are not complete truth. The great locust army of the end days is supposed to be given power to remove most sources of truth (the word). Bibles that lose their original symbols do not contain the entire truth and it is this writer's belief that they should not be used even by young Christians. The renewing of the mind with scripture should be done by the complete cannon.

The symbolism above in 1 Sam 17:3-5 identifies this man as being filled with iniquity (6) and has been allowed to be in a position of judgement and willing to exact death from the Israelites. Bronze signifies one who is empowered to exact judgment. Goliath is marked with a covering that indicates one who judges uncleanness. Five thousand those that need their

need their uncleanness judged. When David picked up the five smooth stones perhaps this may mean that he (our early type of the bloody Christ) was willing to accept our sin and therefore remove the power of death-judgement from the hands of this "monster".

Let me submit this to you for consideration and study.

Bronze = judgment.

We wear the helmet of Salvation. He wears a helmet of judgment.

The tree of life = **Christ** or Grace The perverted tree of good and evil = **Satan** - The perverted Law?

Jesus =The water or life giver of God Satan = The fire or wrath of God

The two individuals above "not walking together" are used by the Lord to in effect produce cleanness in whomever the Lord desires.

Luke 17:15-18

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, **praising** God in a loud voice.

16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him--and he was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other **nine**? 18 Was **no one found to return and give praise** to God except this foreigner?"

Nine received healing and didn't look to the one who healed them and return praise.

Isa 54:16-17

16 "See, it is I who created the **blacksmith** who fans the coals into flame and forges a **weapon fit for its work**. And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc;
17 no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD.

Consider that this "blacksmith" is Satan using the Law as much of the levitical priesthood did with no mercy or compassion.

A weapon is being forged by the Lord and even the fallen one has a part in its' production. Not that Satan means well for us! He means to destroy but he is tethered very tightly and controlled to do just what his owner wants him to. A **weapon** is being produced that will be a portion of our Lord. It will be a weapon of iron which in many places in scripture signifies justice. The bride of Christ will be an agent of His justice. Each of us forms a portion of this weapon which will be fit for its work.

Next we will go to Exodus where we will get a peek at a type of newcomer, one with the full count of twelve to come.

Exodus 28:17-20

"Fashion a breast piece for making decisions--the work of a skilled craftsman. Make it like the ephod: of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen.

16 It is to be **square**--a span long and a span wide--and folded double.

17 Then mount four rows of precious stones on it. In the first row there shall be a **ruby, a topaz and a beryl;**

18 in the second row a **turquoise, a sapphire and an emerald;**

19 in the third row a **jacinth, an agate and an amethyst; (Remember these!)**

20 in the fourth row a **chrysolite, an onyx and a jasper.** Mount them in gold filigree settings.

21 There are to be **twelve stones**, one for each of the names of the sons of Israel, each engraved like a seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes.

Look back at the twelves and is not the following passage giving you an idea of why he does those things associated with twelve? Divine authority to cleanse or purge using whatever tool he so desires evil or good? To fashion attributes of his bride that mirror and attract him and make her to be a Queen for himself that she also may be given His authority to exert His will to perfection? Let's look at her.

Foundations of the City **Wall** (A portion of the New Jerusalem)

Rev 21:9-

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a **great, high wall** with **twelve gates**, and with **twelve angels** at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14 The **wall of the city had twelve foundations**, and on them were the names of the **twelve apostles of the**

Lamb. 15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be **12,000** stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17 He measured its wall and it was **144** cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using.

Many twelves are mentioned here all associated with this city that I believe to be a house made of Christians. Twelve squared is 144. It is only used one other time in the bible and that is in the description of the 144,000 that follow Him where ever he goes. 144 seems to be associated with a special priesthood class of servants. They are very close to our Lord and will be expected to make the greatest sacrifices. A very loyal faithful group ---- in deed a woman shall surround a man. Like a wall, one 144 cubits thick! Now that is a thick wall! This portion of the bride seems to be very protective (a righteous jealousy) of her man! If you look at Solomon's temple you will see many concentric walls surrounding the Holy of Holies from the outer court all the way into the Holy of Holies.

18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was **jasper**, the second **sapphire**, the third **chalcedony**, the fourth **emerald**, 20 the fifth **sardonyx**, the sixth **carnelian**, the seventh **chrysolite**, the eighth **beryl**, the ninth **topaz**, the tenth **chrysoprase**, the eleventh **jacinth**, and the twelfth **amethyst**. 21 The **twelve** gates were **twelve** pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

Again note that we (the new Jerusalem) are studded or marked with twelves.

Song of Songs 8:8-10

8 We have a young sister, and her breasts are not yet grown. What shall we do for our sister for the day she is spoken for? 9 If she is a **wall**, we will build **towers of silver** on her. If she is a **door**, we will enclose her with panels of cedar. 10 I am a **wall**, and my **breasts are like towers**. Thus **I have become in his eyes** like one bringing contentment.

The completed Schulamite is aware of what she has become to her Lord. She knows her value to him! She is not concentrating on what she was but now on what He has made her to be. A wall again, she is protective and guards what is inside – him and all that he is! Doors allow people in and don't we as Christians bring the unclean into the kingdom by the gospel our Lord has given us? Protecting and tending His garden! Could we be the replacement for the old Guardian Cherub that failed? The old Guardian Cherub killed all that would come close and our Lord desires us and our presence. Indeed a wife that had a balance between law and grace would bring contentment to her husband!

The basics were taken from Bullenger.

Heirship	1 Jasper	Benjamin (<i>Rachael's</i>)
Judgement	2 Sapphire - clear blue	Dan
Fellowship	3 Chalcedony (Agate?)	Asher*
Worship-Praise	4 Emerald (Garnet) red?	Judah
Sonship	5 Sardonyx (Ruby)	Reuben
Leadership	6 Carnelion(Onyx)	Joseph (<i>Rachael's</i>)
Comradeship	7 Chrysolite (Flint)	Zebulon
Lordship	8 Beryl (Carbuncle)	Levi
Scholarship	9 Topaz	Simeon
Workmanship	10 Chrysoprase (turquoise?)(alabaster?)	Naphtali
Companionship	11 Jacinth (Opal)	Gad*
Partnership	12 Amethyst (Lapiz lazuli) a rich purple-blue stone, royalty.	Issachar*

Ezek. 28:12-14 - The nine in Lucifer

every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Nine in all!

* Stones not noted in Ezekiel's picture of the King of Tyre.

Note the order of the foundations as listed in Revelation. Heirship is the first to be laid down, partnership the last. Note a gradual elevation or maturity of relationship. When does a man become an heir? When you are born into a family, right? However when do you accept the privileges of heirship, when you become responsible enough! When does a man become an heir of God? The word says that a man must be "born again" meaning born of water and the spirit, otherwise he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Water = the Word and its cleansing. The word(water) cleanses us by forcing us to look into the mirror (the Law); we see our sin and repent. The Lord accepts our repentance and restores us to life.

However In Deuteronomy 29:4 the people are told that they haven't been "Given a mind that understands or eyes that see or ears that hear." They attempt in the flesh under the law to procure each of the attributes that the Lord loves. They fail miserably for it is only the Lord that is able to do this work and he does it by giving his authority (12) to those that he decides will be involved.

Lets take a closer look at attributes of the Schulamite from Song of Songs.

Song of S. 1:10 Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings, your neck with strings of jewels.

Song of S. 4:9 You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart

with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace.

Song of S. 7:1 Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of a craftsman's hands.

Gems = perfection of the qualities in Christ, in the believers by His workmanship.

Purpose is to bring joy to His heart for all eternity.

Final meaning in Hebrew is; to be arranged together as an expert jeweler lays out stones to be set into a necklace.

Please note that the following scriptures are thought to express the intense desire of the Lord to have His Schulamite for his very own.

Mal 3:17-18

17 "**They will be mine**," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my **treasured possession**. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. 18 And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

4:1 "Surely the day is coming; it will **burn like a furnace**. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be **stubble**, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. 2 But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.

At the end of this age our Lord will separate the wheat from the chaff with a great fire. The fire will burn up the chaff (unbelievers) and will refine the wheat (believers). Unfortunately many believers believe they will not have to walk in the fire described in Revelation but the purpose is to test and purify the believers = providing a white wedding gown without wrinkle or blemish. Basically it is thought that Satan is often used as the "fire of the Lord", his wrath, or for temptation(the tester of fine metal). Note these next scriptures.

2 Sam. 24:1-3

24:1 Again the **anger of the LORD** burned against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go and take a census of Israel and Judah."

2 So the king said to Joab and the army commanders with him, "Go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and enroll the fighting men, so that I may know how many there are."

3 But Joab replied to the king, "May the LORD your God multiply the troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?"

Now note the parallel in the next verse.

1 Chron. 21:1-3

21:1 **Satan rose up against Israel and incited David** to take a census of Israel.

2 So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, "Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are."

3 But Joab replied, "May the LORD multiply his troops a hundred times over. My lord the king, are they not all my lord's subjects? Why does my lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on Israel?"

As an overview we see that His entire word is bent toward producing a new Eve for himself. One that is bone of His bone, which means that spiritually she will be the same as he. One that cannot be tempted, seduced, or turned from him. One that will always remain true and loyal to Him. Tracing the number twelve through scriptures lets us see his work and his tools to accomplish that task, as well as His great Love for this individual that is being "remade" in His image. Doesn't this lead you into praise & thanksgiving? Twelve could be said to be a signature of something like.... My Workmanship, My darling, My bride. Or perhaps, My Scepter of Iron. The body of my new Guardian Cherub. In any case she is His, she is loved by Him, and she is capable of giving Him the love He desires.

There is an interesting correlation between the children of Leah and Rachael and the arrangement and meaning of the 12 stones worn by Aaron. It appears that perhaps Leah (One camp) may represent the Gentile bride of Christ, the new testament church. She and her maid servant gave birth to the three meaningful stones not found in the King of Tyre and this occurs during the age we live in an age of grace. Rachael perhaps is representative in part of the Jewish portion of the Bride of Christ who gave birth to first Joseph which is a type of Christ and next to Benjamin which may represent the early church being born out of Israel as Israel "died". Rachael died as she gave birth to Benjamin the new testament church. Jacob went on with Leah after Rachael died. This could be a type of the Lord going on with Leah His Church.

Postscript:

Jacob - Israel

Gentil Bride of Christ?

Leah

Old cow or weary

1. Reuban
2. Simeon
3. Levi
4. Judah
9. **Issacher**
10. Zebulan

Jewish Bride of Christ?

Zilpah

to trickle,as
myrrh: fragrant

7. **Gad**
8. **Asher**

Rachael

11. Joseph
12. Benjamin

Bilhah

Timid

5. Dan
6. Naphtali

Note: Gad, Asher and Issachar not in "Israel" but found in "Gentile Bride". Joseph = 1/2 Manasse & 1/2 Ephraim (Type of Christ) Born next to last with the double portion. Benjamin "Heirship" Israel(Rachael) "died" during the birth of the Church.

Remember this scripture that we started with?

Mathew 14:21

20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up **twelve** basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

The Lord still had a lot of work left to do for you and me. He was ready, willing, and able to accomplish this work of "perfecting His Bride" through His divine authority. The bread he provided (the truth of the gospel) we still eat of it today and it will be sufficient even unto the end of the age for the perfecting of His bride.

More: Zech. 9:14-16 And the Lord, their God shall save them on that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be like the stones of a crown, lifted up as *an ensign upon his land*. (Zech. 9:14-16)

S.O.S. 8:11-12

11 Solomon had a vineyard in Baal Hamon; he let out his vineyard to tenants. Each was to bring for its fruit a thousand shekels of silver.

12 But my own vineyard is mine to give; the thousand shekels are for you, O Solomon, and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit.

Note the total of the above is 1200. Is not the mature believer also able to exert the Lord,s influence on others? However now are we not aware that it is all His gift to us that makes this is possible? So should we not be willing to give it all back? This guardian Cherub will not be destroyed by pride for we know where **all** of our strength has come from.